

From: "PEOPLES STATE BANK" <psb@srt.com>
To: <awaters@gp.usbr.gov>
Date: 3/25/2008 8:03:04 AM
Subject: NAWS-EIS Comments

Dear Ms. Waters:

For a number of years the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Advisory Committee, the Bureau of Reclamation, the North Dakota State Water Commission, the City of Minot, and the Garrison Diversion Unit have been working on the development of the NAWS system. Our citizens have also been supporting the project and have been waiting for this development to bring water to our area and especially to our city. We signed up to get on the system so the entities involved would know of the critical need for water which exists in Northwest and North Central North Dakota.

The need for a dependable water supply in this region has been documented. We have been waiting for this system to be developed in order to have a good reliable supply of water which will serve our citizens. We therefore encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the EIS as early as possible and reach the Record of Decision so this project can go forward with treatment of water from the Missouri River Basin.

We encourage the Bureau and the State Department to adopt the "No Action" alternative. Since all of the alternatives that are being considered in the EIS provide significant reduction of biota transfer, with the least cost alternative providing essentially the same reduction as the most expensive alternative, we strongly recommend the adoption of the "No Action" treatment alternative.

Our citizens need and want this water. It is not a question of this system being a backup system for our community. It is an essential need for us and it will provide good, clean potable water for our citizens. We strongly support this project for our community and our region.

In conclusion, we recommend selection of the "No Action" alternative and early completion of the Record of Decision in order to see the Environmental Impact Statement process completed and NAWS Project water flowing to our community as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Margo Helgersen
Mayor of Westhope